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SB 1506 and SB 2267 INSTREAM USES OF WATER

Statement for
Senate Committee on
Economic Development
Public Hearing - February 18, 1986

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SB 1506 and SB 2267 would amend provisions in HRS 176 D-4 relating to a program for the protection of instream uses of water. This statement on the bill does not reflect an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

At present, the statute provides for the establishment of standards for instream uses of water and for the protection of these uses with respect to streams on Oahu alone. SB 1506 and SB 2267 would delete the restriction to Oahu. The intent in adopting HRS 176 D-4 was to assure that the benefits of allowing water to continue to flow in streams are recognized together with the benefits of diverting water from the streams. There is just as much reason to assure the recognition of instream benefits in the case of streams on the other islands, and extension of the provisions of HRS 176 D-4 to streams of the other islands is highly appropriate.

The only difference between the two bills that we have noted is that SB 2267 would add to subsection (4) of HRS 176 D-4 a specific requirement that the Board of Land and Natural Resources consider instream uses of water when disposing of water from State lands and when regulating the use of land and water in the Conservation District.